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Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING IMAGE TRANSPARENCY

incidence of the vector at the object surface, wherein the function comprises a cosine function.

24.   (Amended) [The method of claim 21]A method comprising:

identifying a vector normal to a viewing surface and incident at an object having an object surface, the vector creating an angle of incidence at the object surface; and

modulating the transparency of an image of the object as a function of the angle of incidence of the vector at the object surface, wherein the function comprises a non-linear function.

26.   (Amended) [The method of claim 25] A method for generating a transparency factor for an image of an object, the method comprising:

selecting a viewing surface;

selecting a vector normal to the viewing surface;

determining an angle of incidence at the object surface created by the vector normal to the viewing surface; and

calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises[:] calculating a cosine of the angle of incidence.

28.   (Amended) [The method of claim 25] A method for generating a transparency factor for an image of an object, the method comprising:

selecting a viewing surface;

selecting a vector normal to the viewing surface;

determining an angle of incidence at the object surface created by the vector normal to the viewing surface; and

calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises[:] calculating a non-linear function of the angle of incidence.